



survival



forest

survival

20 1 1

Chapter 1 by Gavin Mckay

it's late October and you and your neighbor are amazed by the unseasonably good weather. To enjoy the day, you decide to go on a hike. You figure you'll be gone on a short trek, so you pack light -- bringing only a few bottles of water, some trail mix and your cell phone.

The scenery and weather are so great that you lose track of time and before you know it, the sun starts to set. Moments later, disaster strikes. You tumble down a steep hill and break your leg. At 240 pounds (109 kilograms), there's no way your petite, 115-pound (52-kilogram) neighbor can haul you out. You're almost out of water, you've eaten your food and your cell phone isn't getting a signal.

Chapter 2 by Hillary Fifield



Like your remaining supplies, the sun is dwindling down and away. Crouching, shrinking away behind the tops of trees, it shadows you, and you're overwhelmed with a spiraling you feel in your core. It's like a wrench has just loosened your ribs, the bits of hardness around your sternum. It's not relief or hope, more like acceptance with a sprinkling of irritation as you watch your frail, thin neighbor gather tree branches together.

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"I'm building a stretcher for you," she says, hurriedly laying branches of pine on top of one another.

"What good is a stretcher?"

"I will tug you out of here on these branches," she adds, "I'm stronger than I look." To your skeptical look.

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